

Newport, Oregon

People and Place

Location

Newport is located in Lincoln County at 44°38'13"N and 124°03'08"W. The community is situated along the Central Coast of Oregon at the mouth of the Yaquina River. The nearest major metropolitan area is Portland, Oregon, which is found 136 miles to the northeast. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Newport encompasses a total area of 10.4 square miles, including 1.6 square miles of water and 8.9 square miles of land.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Newport had a total population of 9532 people with a population density of 1073.1 people per square mile of land. Newport revealed a 13% gross population growth from years 1990 to 2000. About 88.6% of the inhabitants were White, 0.5% African American, 2.2% Native American, 1.7% Asian, and 0.2% Pacific Islander. A total of 3.9% identified with some other race and 3.0% with two or more races groups. Another 9.0% of the population identified themselves as having Hispanic or Latino origins; this represents a net percentage increase from 3.5% in 1990. The 2000 U.S. Census also identified 6.6% of the inhabitants as foreign-born, of which 72.9% were born in Mexico.

In 2000, Newport was composed of 48.9% males and 51.1% females. The median age of the community was 40.9 years compared to the national median age of 35.3. Newport's median age in 2000 increased from a median age of 32 in 1970. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 41.4% of the population was between the ages of 40 and 64 years old compared to the national average of 30%. The 65 and older age group represented 17.2% of the total population, while the national average for this age group was 12.4%. The 2000 U.S. Census stated that 19.5% of the population 18 years and older received a high school degree as their highest educational attainment. In the community, 82.6% received a high school degree or higher, while 24.7% received a bachelor's degree or higher. It is also noteworthy that 10.8% had received a graduate degree or higher compared to the national average of 7.8%.

History

Thousands of years before non-native settlements, the coastal areas that include Tillamook, Lincoln, and Lane Counties were originally inhabited by the ancestors of the Siletz people. European miners arrived in the 1850s to search for gold in the Yaquina River Valley. Increased hostilities between natives and Europeans motivated the federal government to remove the Indians and place them on reservations in Siletz and Grand Ronde in 1851. The Siletz reservation originally included the area between Cape Lookout and the mouth of the Umpqua River, land that had previously been the home of several tribes. More than 50 tribes were moved to the reservation to become the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.¹ In 1865, the reservation was bisected by a railway. The southern portion was eventually closed and then re-opened to Euro-American settlement. The Dawes Act of 1887 reallocated Indian lands, forcing native people to take individual allotments and placing the rest of the land into public domain. In 1956, during the era of termination, the federal government ended their trust relationship with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and sold the remaining reservation lands. The Siletz Restoration Act of 1977 and the Siletz Reservation Plan restored and reasserted Siletz Indian identity. The reservation presently contains over 3600 acres of land.²

In the late 19th century, Yaquina Bay in Newport was visited by passing sailing vessels headed for a nearby military garrison. Settlers discovered the Yaquina Bay oyster beds in 1862 and made a profit shipping the oysters to San Francisco and other places. Newport was opened to White settlement in 1864 and became incorporated in 1882. Sam Case named the small hamlet after his favorite town of Newport, Rhode Island. He later constructed Newport's first tourist resort, the Ocean House, and named it after his favorite resort in the same New England town. Tourists arrived during the summer from the Willamette Valley to stay at this and other resorts on the Bayfront.

Historically, the Bayfront was the economic hub of Newport, housing wood product industries and a commercial fishing port. Electricity later provided the means for refrigeration and the large scale development of the seafood industry. The Yaquina Head Lighthouse, dredging, and jetty construction made Yaquina Bay an attractive shipping port. Today, the Bayfront is still home to one of the state's largest commercial fishing fleets. It also includes shops, art galleries, restaurants, fish processing plants, and other family attractions.

Nye Beach was once separate from the Bayfront. In the 1890s, Newport began to outgrow the Bayfront and a wood plank road was built to connect the two areas. By the early 1900s, Nye Beach, with its sea baths, taffy stores, and agate shops, became the number one visitor attraction on the coast. It was known for its rooming houses, resorts, and a large "sanatorium" built by Herbert Hoover's stepfather, Dr. Henry J. Minthorn. Newport is now a haven for artists with its numerous galleries and the Newport Performing Arts and Visual Arts Center.³

The construction of the Roosevelt Military Highway, also known as U.S. Highway 101, occurred between 1919 and 1936. The completion of the Yaquina Bay Bridge not only increased the speed of travel along the coast, it also changed the face of Newport. Without the need for the ferry from Yaquina City, the Bayfront lost its role as the center of travel. Businesses moved from Nye Beach and the Bayfront to along the highway. The result was the end to a dividing line between the two areas and the development of a new, connected Newport.⁴

In the early 1980s, a group of local businesses and government leaders joined forces to develop a community revitalization plan. A strategic plan was created to reduce the community's dependence on natural resource-based fishing and tourism industries. The new plan developed Newport as a destination resort and research center. These developments included expanding the research facilities of the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The contemporary Marine Science Center houses a number of federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).^{5,6}

While the new revitalization plan has enhanced the local tourism economy, it has also increased tensions between the tourism industry and the seafood industry. While the future of fisheries is uncertain, the tourism industry continues to grow, a situation that does not help ease the conflict between groups with different goals for port and harbor development.⁷

Tourists to Newport enjoy yearly festivals that include the Seafood and Wine Festival, the Microbrew Festival (originally called the Fishermen's Harvest), the Tuna Canning Festival, and the Newport Loyalty Days and Seafair Festival. Other events include Oregon Lighthouse Week, Stories by the Sea, Oyster Cloyster on the Oregon Coast, the Newport Clambake and Seafood BBQ, the Blessing of the Fleet, and the Lighted Boat Parade.⁸

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The major industries in Newport are tourism, fishing, and wood products.⁹ The five largest employers of the area include Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Newport Shrimp Co., Inc., Depoe Bay Fish Co., Inc., Mo's Enterprises, and Alsea Veneer, Inc.¹⁰ The 2000 U.S. Census indicates that 3.8% of the employed civilian population 16 years and over worked in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries. The percentage may not be indicative of the actual number of people in these professions as many are self-employed, especially in the fishing industry. Another 17.9% worked in arts, entertainment recreation, and accommodation and food services. Additionally, 19.1% worked in educational, health and social services, while 19.7% were employed by the government. The 2000 U.S. Census states that the unemployment rate in 2000 was 9% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). For the population 16 years and older, 37.3% were not in the labor force, while 57.1% were employed.

In 1999, median household income was \$31,996 and per capita income was \$20,580. About 14.4% of the population was living below poverty level in 1999. Of the 5034 housing units in 2000, 81.7% were occupied and 18.3% were vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 51.9% were owner occupied, while 48.1% were renter occupied.

Governance

Newport is an incorporated city that operates under a Council-Manager charter. The state of Oregon has no general sales tax. The lodging tax is levied at 1% of the fee charged to the customer for overnight lodging and funds the Oregon Tourism Commission. Property tax is determined by a permanent rate set for the taxing district. The tax rate ranges from \$7 to \$15 per \$1000 of real market value. Assessed values are limited to a 3 percent annual growth rate.

Fishing businesses located in Oregon or deriving income from Oregon resources must pay a corporate excise or income tax totaling 6% of their net Oregon income. Wholesale fish dealers, canners, and bait dealers pay a landing fee that is determined from a percentage of the value of the food fish purchased from commercial harvesters. Salmon and Steelhead Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) landing fees are \$0.05 per pound for round, \$.0575 per pound for dressed, and \$.0605 per pound for dressed with heads off. Other regular landing fees are based on value; salmon and steelhead are 3.15% of value (including eggs and parts); all other fish and shellfish are 1.09% of value, and near-shore species are 5% of value.

Vessel owners must pay registration and title fees, and marine fuel taxes that support boating facilities, marine law enforcement, and boating safety education. Fishing boats and equipment may be taxed as personal property if they are valued at less than \$1 million. If their value exceeds this amount, they are taxed as industrial property. In 2004, title transfer fees are \$30 and registration fees are \$3 per foot based on center length of vessel. Oregon levies a fuel tax of \$0.24 per gallon of gasoline and use fuel. The Oregon Department of Agriculture administers four commodity commissions, Oregon Albacore Commission, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Salmon Commission, and Oregon Trawl Commission. Fishermen pay fees to these commissions for marketing and lobbying on behalf of fishermen involved in these specific fisheries.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has a Fisheries Science Center field station located in the community. Newport is also home to an ODFW field office, as well as their Marine Resources Program. Newport is 75.6 miles from the nearest U.S. Coast Guard Unit in Winchester Bay and 136 miles from the closest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Office in Portland. The closest possible Pacific Fisheries Management Council and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings are held 136 miles away in Portland.

Facilities

Newport is accessible by a number of transportation options. Amtrak and Greyhound provide rail and bus service respectively to nearby communities and to greater metropolitan areas throughout the country. The local Newport Municipal Airport is a landing base for small planes. The community is also located 149 miles from the Portland International Airport. Major highways that intersect Newport include Highways 101 and 26.

Local schools include two elementary schools, three middle schools, and a high school. Newport also has one private high school. The community houses the Oregon Coast Community College. The main electric supply is provided by Central Lincoln People's Utility District. Water and sewer services are supplied by the City of Newport. The Newport Police Department administers local law enforcement. The closest health care facility is Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital which overlooks Yaquina Bay Bridge. Newport lodging accommodations include over 100 bed-and-breakfasts, condos, hotels, and motels, campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks, and vacation rentals.

The Port of Newport was incorporated in 1910 and covers 59 square miles that include the City of Newport. The Port offers shipping terminal facilities, commercial and sport boat moorages, and support services.¹¹ Facilities include two berths capable of serving oceangoing vessels, 510 berths for mooring commercial and sportfishing vessels, a public wharf with 300 feet of frontage for servicing fishing boats, a dry boat moorage of 120 boats, and a 220-foot pier for docking large and small research vessels. There is also moorage for around 450 commercial fishing vessels, and the marina has 600 moorage slips for pleasure craft and shallow draft fishing boats. The Port also entails a commercial fish farm facility and several seafood companies that have their own facilities for handling fresh fish and crab.¹² Land in the Port has been leased to a fish meal plant, a net manufacturer, the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, a full-service fuel dock, and other marine retail and service businesses. The nearest ODFW hatchery is the Alsea Hatchery, located southeast of Newport along the Alsea River.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, of the 393 vessels that delivered landings to Newport, all were commercial. Landings in the community were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels making landings): coastal pelagic (158 t/\$14,203/17), crab (1613 t/\$7,474,302/99), groundfish (40,389 t/\$9,382,966/179), highly migratory species (1403 t/\$2,626,906/180), salmon (368 t/\$1,361,844/181), shellfish (confidential/confidential/2), shrimp (3628 t/\$3,240,124/38), and other species (50 t/\$222,093/106).

Newport residents owned 90 vessels in 2000, of which nine were a part of the Groundfish Vessel Buyback Program. Community members owned 69 vessels that participated in the Federally Managed Groundfish fishery. Recorded data indicates that the number of vessels owned by Newport residents in 2000 that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (0/35/3), groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species

(NA/1/NA), salmon (0/56/7), shellfish (NA/11/NA), shrimp (NA/37/3), and other species (0/41/0).¹³

Thirty Federally Managed Groundfish fishery permits were held by 31 Newport residents in 2000. According to recorded data the number of individual community members holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (1/35/3), groundfish (1/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/2/0), salmon (3/49/12), shellfish (0/8/NA), and shrimp (14/35/3).¹⁴

According to available data, 277 permits were registered to Newport residents in 2000, of which 247 were registered state permits. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by these community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/1/0), crab (1/75/3), groundfish (3/0/0), highly migratory species (NA/2/0), salmon (3/52/20), shellfish (0/8/NA), and shrimp (15/60/4).¹⁵

Newport had four processor plants that employed at least 217 people in 2000. In the same year an estimated 11,502,760 lbs of fish and seafood were processed at a value of \$18,589,837. One of the top products processed was Dungeness crab with an estimated 1,546,722 lbs at a value of \$5,600,209. Other top products were sablefish, shrimp, Pacific hake, rockfish, and flounder; however, their total pounds and value cannot be reported due to confidentiality. According to internet sources, local processors include Oregon Oyster Farm, Trident Seafood Corporation, Point Adams Packing Co., Yaquina Bay Fish Co., Newport Shrimp Co., Oregon Coast Seafoods, and Depoe Bay Fish Co.¹⁶

Sportfishing

Newport had at least two outfitter guide businesses in 2003. Eight licensed charter vessel businesses were located in the community. Ten licensed charter vessel businesses from the Oregon communities of Aurora (1), Beaverton (1), Brownsville (1), Lincoln City (1), Salem (1), Siletz (1), and Toledo (4) used Newport as their homeport. Internet fishing guide sources indicate that there are at least six sportfishing businesses currently operating in Newport.¹⁷

Presently, Newport has 13 licensing vendors. In 2000, the number of licenses sold by active agents was 4785 at a value of \$81,155. For the community of Newport, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 1141 Chinook salmon and 9124 coho salmon. The recreational non-salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was a total of 125,112 fish. The top species landed include black rockfish, blue rockfish, lingcod, Albacore tuna, Pacific halibut, chilipepper rockfish, California halibut, kelp greenling, yelloweye rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish.

Subsistence

Many local community members engage in subsistence fishing. Both nontribal and tribal fishermen, including members of the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz, utilize marine and stream resources for subsistence means from the areas within and surrounding Newport. Under the trust doctrine, the federal government is charged to protect tribal resources and by constitutional mandate to protect natural resources. The government-to-government agreements made between tribal groups and the United States through treaties guarantee fishing rights on traditional grounds. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Newport is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000, Newport residents owned 33 vessels that were involved in North Pacific fisheries. Inhabitants landed fish in the following fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab (1461 t/\$9,422,080/13), Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish (38,640 t/\$12,077,360/17), other finfish (8 t/\$31,000/12), and Gulf of Alaska groundfish (14,557 t/\$5,444,850/17). Landings also included: halibut (433 t/\$2,414,360/11), herring (confidential/confidential/2), salmon (93 t/\$135,780/7), and shellfish (20 t/\$68,290/7).

Forty-two Newport residents worked as crewmembers in 2000 aboard vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries. Thirty-one individuals held registered state permits and 66 held registered federal permits.

A total of 128 permits were registered to individuals in Newport in 2000. Newport community members held 15 crab and 28 groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) permits in 2000. Residents also held 6 halibut, 24 BSAI groundfish, 1 shellfish, and 4 salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits. The halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota shares for people residing in the community were 5,822,206 and 952,559, respectively.

Sportfishing

Residents purchased 69 sportfishing licenses for Alaskan fisheries in 2000.

¹ The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. 1999. Geographic areas of tribal interest ordinance: Siletz tribal code §4.100. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon: tribal government operations, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org/ccfolder/silcode11geo.htm> (access date - July 2004).

² Siletz Community Health Clinic. 2003. About the tribe, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/tribal_profiles/Oregon/Confederated%20Tribes%20of%20Siletz%20Indians%20Tribal%20Profile.htm (access date - July 2004).

³ Oregon Coast Visitors Association. 2003. Newport: about Newport, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.visittheoregoncoast.com/home.cfm?dir_cat=15366&gal_col=13 (access date - July 2004).

⁴ Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce. No date. History, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.newportchamber.org/relocate/home.cfm?dir_cat=19072&gal_col=6 (access date - July 2004).

⁵ Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce. No date. Economy, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.newportchamber.org/relocate/?dir_cat=19068&gal_col=5 (access date - July 2004).

⁶ Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center. 2001. General information, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/info/overview.html> (access date - July 2004).

⁷ Holmes, K., ed. Faces of the Fisheries: Newport. North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Seattle: Winterholm Press, 1994.

⁸ Oregon Coast Visitors Association. 2003. Newport: about Newport, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.visittheoregoncoast.com/home.cfm?dir_cat=15366&gal_col=13 (access date - July 2004).

⁹ City of Newport. 2004. About Newport: city of Newport, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.discovernewport.com/about/city.asp> (access date - July 2004).

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- ¹⁰ Oregon Economic & Community Development Department. 2004. Newport community profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Newport&-script=hit%20count&-Find#taxes> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹¹ Port of Newport. 2003. Description of the Port of Newport, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://www.portofnewport.com/aboutpn.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹² NOAA Coastal Services Center. 2002. Yaquina Estuary Port and Harbor community profile, [Online]. Available: URL: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/products/tsunamis/htm/cascadia/np_prof.htm (access date - July 2004).
- ¹³ 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few recorded permit numbers or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- ¹⁴ 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few recorded permit numbers or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- ¹⁵ 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few recorded permit numbers or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
- ¹⁶ Sportfishing businesses determined via internet search: Available: URL: <http://uci.net/~dcrab/maplink.html>; http://www.newportnet.com/bus/home.cfm?dir_cat=2844&gal_col=4; <http://www.oregonoyster.com/Handle.htm> (access date - July 2004).
- ¹⁷ Sportfishing businesses determined via internet search: Available: URL: <http://www.fishhoo.com>; <http://www.landbigfish.com>; <http://www.fishingnetwork.com>; <http://www.localfishermensnews.com> (access date - September 2004).